

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SAB-01

FBOE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00

/047 W

----- 010644

O 172143Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5148

INFO PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PANAMA 5721

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1530 SEPT. 17 STREETS OUTSIDE U.S. EMBASSY WERE BLOCKED BY NUMBER OF LARGE BUSES, AND SMALL GROUP (ABOUT 30-50 AT MOST) OF DEMONSTRATORS ARRIVED AT EMBASSY GATE, SHOWING PANAMANIAN FLAG AND BANNER OF CENTRAL PANAMENA DE TRABAJADORES DEL TRANSPORTE (CPTT). FYI: CPTT IS RECENTLY-ORGANIZED FOURTH PANAMANIAN LABOR CONFEDERATION, EMBRACING VIRTUALLY ALL TAXI, BUS AND TRUCK DRIVERS IN PANAMA. IT WAS ORGANIZED WITH ACTIVE GOP SUPPORT AND IS REPORTED TO RECEIVE CERTAIN SUBSIDIES FROM GOP THROUGH REBATES OF GAS TAX TO COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DRIVERS PAID THROUGH THIS UNION. END FYI. NO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE IN EVIDENCE IN DEMONSTRATION.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH DEMONSTRATORS, LATTER STATED THAT THEY HAD COME TO EMBASSY TO HOLD PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION, WHICH THEY INTENDED TO MAINTAIN FOR ONE-HALF HOUR, IN PROTEST AGAINST SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS ON THE PANAMA ISSUE YESTERDAY IN ORLANDO AT SOUTHERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE. THEY FELT THESE STATEMENTS TO HAVE BEEN INOPPORTUNE, SINCE QUESTION IS UNDER PEACEFUL DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATION BETWEEN PANAMA AND UNITED STATES, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND FELT THAT HIS STATEMENTS IMPLIED INSULT TO PANAMA. (FOR

LOCAL SEPTEMBER 17 PRESS COVERAGE OF KISSINGER STATEMENT AND REACTION BY PANAMANIAN CHIEF NEGOTIATOR TACK SEE USIS PANAMA 5708.) THEY STRESSED THAT THEIR DEMONSTRATION WAS STRICTLY PEACEFUL, AND STATED FURTHER THAT OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR ORGANIZATION WERE HOLDING SIMILAR PROTESTS, BLOCKING TRAFFIC AT ENTRANCES TO CANAL ZONE AND AT OTHER POINTS IN PANAMA.

3. DURING CONVERSATION, AND ON HAND-LETTERED SIGN, THEY ALSO REFERRED ADVERSELY TO STATEMENTS MADE BY USCINCSO GEN. MCAULIFFE IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 14 ISSUES OF "ESTRELLA" AND "STAR AND HERALD" (SEE USIS PANAMA 5684).

4. CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT SIMILAR BLOCKAGE HAS TAKEN PLACE AT AT LEAST ONE OF DOWNTOWN ENTRANCES TO CANAL ZONE.

5. NATIONAL GUARD ARE ON SCENE, AND DEMONSTRATION GIVES EVERY EVIDENCE OF CAUSING NOTHING MORE UNUSUAL THAN A MAJOR TRAFFIC TIEUP ON STREETS BEING BLOCKED.

6. AT ABOUT 1610, ONLY FEW MINUTES OFF THEIR SCHEDULED HALF-HOUR, DEMONSTRATORS POSED FOR PICTURE, SANG NATIONAL ANTHEM, AND DISPERSED, TAKING THEIR BUSES WITH THEM.

JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, AGREEMENTS, EMBASSIES, SPEECHES, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006